

## PLOTTED TO KILL A FAMILY.

Six Lives were in Jeopardy in Eaton, O., but One Conspirator Confessed.

## COLD ROBBERY WAS THE INCENTIVE.

**William Beall, Father of a Murderer, Wanted Finley Huffman's Family Murdered so He Could Obtain Two \$500 Notes—John Spivey Was to Do the Shooting, but He Told the Hoffmanns.**

John Spivey, of Miamisburg, O., has told in court of a plot to murder a family of six persons in Eaton, O., William Beall, whose son is a life prisoner for killing his mother, arranged the details of the scheme and tried to get Spivey to do the work. Spivey told the head of the family which was to be murdered of the plot and Beall was arrested and jailed.

**ESPECIAL TO THE WORLD.**

EATON, O., Jan. 18.—William E. McDonald, a resident of this place, has been arrested by Officer Fornshell, from Camden, this county, on a warrant sworn out before Major O. P. Brown, charging Beall with an attempt to rob a mail-order.

A young man named John V. Spivey, a resident of Miamisburg, O., was also arrested on the same charge, and gave bail in the sum of \$1,000. Beall is the father of Johnny Beall, the boy who killed his mother a little over a year ago, and is now serving a life term in the Ohio Penitentiary. His youth alone saved him from death on the gallows.

Now, V. Spivey received a letter at Miamisburg from Beall, asking his place of residence. Spivey answered the letter the next day. Jan. 3 Spivey received a letter from Beall, requesting Spivey to meet him in Hamilton in some secret place. Spivey answered that he would meet him in Hamilton on Jan. 6.

"I was to meet him at the Pan Handle depot, and we were to go to some secret place to talk, as Beall said he had a secret he wanted to reveal to me, and he did not want anyone to see him talking to me." On Jan. 5 Spivey received another letter from Beall, saying that he would be there two days later. "We met that day at Hamilton at the depot. I walked up High street to the canal. Beall followed me. He caught up with me just before we got to the canal. As soon as he met me he began to reveal his secret, which was that there was \$5,000 in Finley Huffman's house, near Beall's place, and two notes of \$500 each, which I could have if I would murder Huffman and his family. He wanted me to set some one to kill the family, but I said no, and he said that if I was to do it, it would cost me the note and that he would get James first, for he was a good runner, and if he got a start he could not be caught."

"No, not a little matter, but a big matter," said the old man, impressively.

"How big?" asked the lawyer.

"Three hundred million dollars!"

The lawyer almost fell off his chair.

"I have walked from Putnam, Conn., where I belong," said the old man. "I was appointed the negro missionary there to go west and convert the heathen. They gave me two months of gold and one barrel of gold to pay my expenses."

"How much gold was there in all?"

"Three hundred million dollars. The gold was kept in my room, and me and this young man were guardians of it. On the third night a crowd of men came in and hit us on the head and took the gold. I am the only one left, and that is why I am here to tell you what I know, and to be safe and to get James first, for he was a good runner, and if he got a start he could not be caught."

"After this talk Spivey told Beall he must go and see a man before giving him a definite answer. Says Spivey: "I went to Col. Tom Moore's office, I showed him what Beall had told me, and I asked him to give me a check for \$500, and he said he would give me one, and go and tell Huffman about it and take steps to bring Beall to justice. After that, Moore and I went to the office of the Hamlin & Co. at Hamilton. He advised me if I had got a partner, I told him yes. I had seen a man, Then Beall came on to plan how the work was to be done, and when we were ready, he said he would go away every night. Beall was to go to the house and invite Henry to a party at the Red Hall at Eaton. When the door was opened I was to go to shooting. After having killed all the family I was then to lie in wait for Henry, kill him and drag him into the house, close the door, and then call the police. The check was to be given to me in a bank in Connecticut without going to Boston."

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